



# County of San Diego

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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## MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

February 20, 2007

Project Name: San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center Project

Project Number(s): COFD-00237

**This Document is Considered Draft Until it is Adopted by the Appropriate County of San Diego Decision-Making Body.**

This Mitigated Negative Declaration is comprised of this form along with the Environmental Initial Study that includes the following:

- a. Initial Study Form and attached extended studies for the San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center Project.
1. California Environmental Quality Act Mitigated Negative Declaration Findings:

Find, that this Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the decision-making body's independent judgment and analysis, and; that the decision-making body has reviewed and considered the information contained in this Mitigated Negative Declaration and the comments received during the public review period, and; on the basis of the whole record before the decision-making body (including this Mitigated Negative Declaration) that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

## 2. Required Mitigation Measures:

Refer to the attached Environmental Initial Study for the rationale for requiring the following measures:

### **Biological Resources**

- Permanent and temporary impacts to coastal sage scrub will be mitigated at a ratio of 2:1 and will result in revegetation of 0.011 acre of coastal sage scrub habitat on-site and 0.005 acre at the Solana Hills Site. Temporary impacts within the PIA will be located along the sides of the existing visitors center and are a result of construction activities. All temporary impacts (0.149 acre) to coastal sage scrub habitat will be revegetated and restored following the end of construction. These mitigation measures will be implemented before and after construction as coordinated with the USFWS and CDFG through the Habitat Loss Permit process.
- A Landscaping Planting Plan has been prepared, which details the proposed on-site mitigation within the PIA and within the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve is provided as an Attachment to this document. This plan will be implemented after construction is complete. The plan analyzes permanent and temporary impacts to CCS and evaluates success criteria, maintenance and monitoring guidelines.
- Vegetation clearing shall occur outside the migratory bird/raptor breeding season (defined as February 15 – August 31).

### **Cultural Resources**

- Under the supervision of the County Historian (Department of Parks and Recreation) and the Department of Public Works, a qualified archaeologist will identify the slope north of the visitor center as a cultural resources sensitive area using stakes and flagging tape prior to removal of the existing trailer and storage shed and demolition of the visitor center. No construction will be permitted within the cultural resources sensitive area.
- The area identified as the cultural resources sensitive area shall be fenced off from the project area. The fence installation shall be monitored. The fence will be installed without postholes or excavation of any kind.
- A qualified archaeologist and Native American consultant/Kumeyaay-appointed consultant will monitor ground disturbing grading activity and development activity during construction of the nature center. The archaeologist and Native American consultant shall meet with the County

Historian and the Department of Parks and Recreation project manager to develop a construction schedule and monitoring protocols. The monitors will have the authority to halt, delay, or relocate grading should an undisturbed, buried cultural deposit or culturally sensitive material be encountered. If the deposit cannot be avoided, a treatment plan for determination of significance and mitigation, if necessary, shall be prepared and a monitoring report will be prepared. Only diagnostic materials shall be collected. Prior to any collection of archaeological material, arrangements shall be made for curation at the San Diego Archaeological Center. A monitoring report shall be prepared to provide the results of the monitoring program.

- A trail is proposed for construction behind the nature center to provide access to an elevator to the second story. The trail will be approximately 30 feet long and 6 feet wide, and must be handicap accessible. The trail will be constructed outside of the cultural resources sensitive area (the berm); however, because of its proximity to the cultural resources sensitive area, special measures are recommended to avoid impacts to the site.
  - Construct the trail using a maximum excavation of four feet to establish a foundation for the trail, or to the minimum grading necessary to obtain a slope of less than 5 percent on the trail.
  - Place handicap accessible surfacing on the trail (rubberized surfacing, stabilized decomposed granite, etc.).
  - All grading for the trail will be monitored.

3. Critical Project Design Elements That Must Become Conditions of Approval:

The following project design elements were either proposed in the project application or the result of compliance with specific environmental laws and regulations and were essential in reaching the conclusions within the attached Environmental Initial Study. While the following are not technically mitigation measures, their implementation must be assured to avoid potentially significant environmental effects.

- The project will implement site design measures, source control, and/or treatment control BMPs to reduce potential pollutants.

**ADOPTION STATEMENT:** This Mitigated Negative Declaration was adopted and above California Environmental Quality Act findings made by the:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Decision-Making Body)

on \_\_\_\_\_ (Date/Item #)

Esther Daigneault, Environmental Planning Manager  
Department of Public Works